This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for distributed processing of print jobs using multiple printer processors and centralized printing, comprising the steps of:

   dividing a print job into a plurality of print job segments in a print distribution module;

   transmitting the plurality of print job segments to one or more distribution responsive printers;

   processing the plurality of print job segments into a plurality of print engine-ready data segments using the one or more distribution responsive printers;

   ~~receiving~~ assembling the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments received from the one or more distribution responsive printers at the print distribution module; and

   printing the assembled plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments at a target printer when the plurality of segments is received from the print distribution module.

2. (original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the print job from a digital device to the print distribution module.

3. (original) A method as in claim 2, wherein the step of sending the print job from a digital device to a print distribution module further comprises the step of sending the print job from the digital device to the print distribution module through a wired connection.

4. (original) A method as in claim 2, wherein the step of sending the print job from a digital device to the print distribution module further comprises the step of sending the print job from the digital device to the print distribution module through a wireless connection.

5. (original) A method as in claim 2, wherein the step of sending the print job further comprises the step of sending the print job from a digital device to a print distribution module through a computer network.

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6. (original) A method, as in claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring firmware of the one or more distribution responsive printers to receive print job segments in a variety of common print languages.

7. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of dividing the print job further comprises the step of dividing the print job into print job segments that are a single printed page.

8. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of print job segments further involves the step of transmitting a first print job segment of the plurality of print job segments to a target printer to be printed and transmitting remaining print job segments to the one or more distribution responsive printers.

9. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of processing the plurality of print job segments further comprises the step of processing the plurality of print job segments using two or more distribution responsive printers~~, said plurality of print job segments being processed into print engine-ready data~~.

10. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of ~~receiving~~ assembling the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments further involves the step of sending the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments from the print distribution module to the target printer.

11. (original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of determining which types of distribution responsive printer connected to the network will be used for processing the print job.

12. (original) A method as in claim 11, further comprising the step of determining an operational state of each of the two or more distribution responsive printers that are connected to a network.

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13. (original) A method as in claim 12, wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of print job segments to one or more distribution responsive printers, further comprises the step of transmitting the plurality of print job segments to one or more distribution responsive printers that are determined to be a similar model as the target printer.

14. (original) A method as in claim 12, further comprising the step of transmitting the plurality of print job segments to one or more distribution responsive printers that are determined to be available by the print distribution module.

15. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of ~~receiving~~ assembling the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments further comprises the step of ~~receiving~~ assembling the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments from the distribution responsive printers by querying the one or more distribution responsive printers with the print distribution module.

16. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of ~~receiving~~ assembling the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments further comprises the step of transmitting the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments from the distribution responsive printers to the print distribution module.

17. (currently amended) A method as in claim 16, wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments is performed immediately after an individual print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segment from the plurality of print job segments has completed processing.

18. (currently amended) A printing system to distribute processing of print jobs using multiple printer processors and centralized printing, comprising:

a print distribution module configured to divide a print job into a plurality of print job segments;

a distribution responsive printer configured to receive and process one or more of the plurality of print job segments from the print distribution module into one or more print

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engine-ready data segments; and

wherein the print distribution module is further configured to ~~receive~~ assemble one or more print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments from the distribution responsive printer after processing.

19. (original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the print distribution module is configured to transmit a first print job segment of the plurality of print job segments to a target printer to be printed.

20. (original) A system as in claim 19, wherein the print distribution module is configured to transmit a remainder of the print job segments to one or more distribution responsive printers.

21. (original) A system as in claim 20, wherein the target printer is a distribution responsive printer.

22. (original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the print distribution module is configured to divide and transmit a remainder of the print job segments between one or more distribution responsive printers and the target printer.

23. (original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the printing system further comprises a computer network.

24. (original) A system as in claim 23, wherein a digital device is connected to the network to send a print job.

25. (original) A system as in claim 24, wherein the digital device is configured to transmit a print job to the print distribution module.

26. (original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the print distribution module is configured to determine the model and status of each distribution responsive printer connected to a

network.

27. (original) A system as in claim 20, wherein the print distribution module is configured to transmit a remainder of the print job segments to one or more distribution responsive printers when the print distribution module has determined the one or more distribution responsive printers are not busy.

28. (currently amended) A system as in claim 20, wherein the print distribution module is configured to query one or more distribution responsive printers to which a remainder of the print job segments have been sent, and ~~receive~~ assemble the remainder of the print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments when one or more distribution responsive printers have completed processing the remainder of the print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments.

29. (currently amended) A system as in claim 28, wherein the print distribution module is configured to receive ~~processed~~ print engine-ready data segments from processing of a remainder of the print job segments at the distribution responsive printers as soon as the ~~processed~~ print engine-ready data segments ~~is~~ are available.

30. (currently amended) A printing system to distribute processing of print jobs using multiple printer processors and centralized printing, comprising:

   a print distribution means for dividing a print job into a plurality of print job segments;

   a distribution responsive printer means for receiving and processing one or more of the plurality of print job segments from the print distribution means into one or more print engine-ready data segments;

   wherein the print distribution means is further configured to ~~receive~~ assemble one or more print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments from the distribution responsive printer after processing; and

   a target printer means for receiving the one or more print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments from the print distribution means and for printing the one or more print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments.

31. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for distributed processing of print jobs using multiple printer processors and centralized printing, the computer readable program code in the article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code for dividing a print job into a plurality of print job segments in a print distribution module;

computer readable program code for transmitting the plurality of print job segments to one or more distribution responsive printers;

computer readable program code for processing the plurality of print job segments into a plurality of print engine-ready data segments using the one or more distribution responsive printers;

computer readable program code for ~~receiving~~ assembling the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments from the one or more distribution responsive printers at the print distribution module; and

computer readable program code for printing the plurality of print ~~job~~ engine-ready data segments at a target printer when the plurality of segments is received from the print distribution module.